

Government Restructuring Committee

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"Commitment, Vision, Balance"

MINUTES

GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: February 2, 2012

Call to Order: 7:06 p.m.

Location: Dakins Community Center
Zearing, Iowa

Adjournment: 8:17 p.m.

Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair
*Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair
*Marty Chitty
Tom Corrieri
*Steve McGill
Sandra McJimsey
Patrick Sheets
(*) Absent

Public Present

Leanne Harter, Paul Toot, Eric Brown, Shelley Zoe, Jim Chance, Bill Lytle, Jeff Johnston, Rick Good

Public Comment

Mr. Ted Tedesco explained the roll of the committee to all individuals present.

Mr. Tedesco gave a review of his history with city and county government.

A community member asked why the committee was formed. Mr. Tedesco reiterated the committee's role.

A community member questioned whether the Story County Board of Supervisors, BOS, would increase from a three person board to five person board. Mr. Tedesco reviewed *Iowa State Code Section 331* and its guidelines, regulations and restrictions. Mr. Tedesco gave an overview of the districting process. Mr. Paul Toot also explained the process in which districts are structured as regulated by the current *Iowa Code 331*. A community member asked if the student body of ISU were counted as citizens of Ames. Mr. Tedesco stated ISU students are considered citizens of Ames as citizenship is based upon current residence. Mr. Toot gave an overview of BOS member history.

Mr. Tedesco reviewed Marshall County's recent combining of some of the county offices.

Ms. Sandra McJimsey reviewed past meetings and concerns that had been brought to the committee's attention such as districting, budgets, and roads.

A community member gave an overview of the City of McCallsburg and its population, budget, and needs from the County Sheriff's Department.

Committee members and community members discussed in length the Story County Sheriff's Department. Community members feel they are being over taxed, per capita fee, by County Sheriff's Department and this is a large detriment to a declining economy for small towns such as Zearing and McCallsburg. Mr. Tedesco stated the BOS has control of the Sheriff's budget. Committee members and community members compared Story County Sheriff Department staff to that of Marshall County.

A community member asked if the County Sheriff's Department responds to ISU calls. Mr. Tedesco stated the City of Ames is the first to respond to such calls.

Mr. Toot gave an overview of County funding. Mr. Toot reviewed the number of Sheriff's office staff and detention staff. A community member stated concerns regarding the amount of money being spent at the County Sheriff's office. Mr. Toot reviewed the contract between the Sheriff's office and outlying cities. A community member reiterated concerns regarding the per capita fees and feelings that said fees are too high at \$49.29 per person. Mr. Tedesco asked if said cities are at their property tax levy limit. Community members concurred.

A community member stated he felt the County roads have been maintained well.

Mr. Tedesco gave overview of possibly sharing one Assessor between the County and the City of Ames. Mr. Tedesco stated all citizens need the services, but if we can do it smarter and use resources more cost effectively the better.

The contract between the Sheriff's office and the cities was reviewed again. It was stated that the contracted hours between the County Sheriff's office and outlying cities is contracted at 30 to 35 hours per week. Mr. Tom Corrieri asked if anyone had discussions with the County Sheriff regarding concerns. It was stated that community members had not done such as they felt it would not do any good.

It was stated that the Sheriff's office did a nice job cleaning up some high drug areas in the county.

Mr. Tedesco questioned who had the authority to set the number of personnel within the Sheriff's office. Mr. Toot stated it is the BOS decision. Ms. McJimsey asked if employee hours were set via contract. Community members stated that a contract is mailed from the County Sheriff and it is then mailed back with no meetings being held for discussions. A community member stated they would like to see better communication between the County and City such as receiving meeting notices more than one day prior. Mr. Tedesco stated that the small cities should consider banning together and speaking with the Sheriff and BOS.

A community member asked what other cities are saying about districting and possibly changing from a three to five person BOS. Mr. Tedesco stated other cities asked how districts would be split. The Board of Supervisor's roles, districting, part-time vs. full-time, wages, and what constitutes a quorum were discussed. Mr. Tedesco stated that Story County has always had a three person BOS. Mr. Toot reviewed other Iowa counties and the number of members on each BOS. Ms. Leanne Harter gave an overview of the first Story County BOS meeting and membership.

Mr. Corrieri stated all discussions lead back to economics and what can we do to develop outlying areas to create more viable communities and increase the needed economic development.

Mr. Tedesco reviewed the expected completion date of the Dakin's Lake project and trail-way improvements. Mr. Tedesco stated the public is demanding a high "quality of life" type of recreation and the county is doing what they can to accommodate such demand. Mr. Tedesco suggested the cities put exercise equipment into a downtown building. It was stated that insurance costs are too high to do such.

Committee discussion

Mr. Tedesco asked for discussion regarding a public questionnaire put together by Ms. Harter and how said questionnaire should be dispersed. Ms. Harter gave an overview of the questionnaire and stated that a link could go onto the County website as well as an emailing out to county leaders, a press release to newspapers and Ames News Online. Ms. Harter stated that the questionnaire is informational only and has no statistical validity due to the County not having any control as to how many times an individual could submit said questionnaire. Mr. Sheets



questioned whether internet disbursement would be enough. A community member asked whether the public libraries could distribute the questionnaires. Mr. Tedesco asked Ms. Harter to send hard copies to outlying cities to accommodate such requests. Ms. Harter asked for a timeframe for disbursement and collection of said questionnaires. Ms. Harter stated the questionnaires could be ready to distribute by Monday, February 6th, 2012. After discussion, it was decided to distribute said questionnaire on February 5th, 2012 and collection to be completed by March 10th, 2012.

Mr. Tedesco asked if the GRC could meet with members of the Compensation Board. Mr. Toot stated he thought it would be possible. Mr. Tedesco asked Ms. Harter to schedule such meeting for Feb. 10th.

Ms. Harter reviewed the upcoming meetings and stated that the Committee will have prior meeting minutes to approve and asked permission to post draft minutes to the County website. Said request was approved. Ms. Harter reviewed information received from Mr. Darren Moon regarding roads and maintenance. Mr. Tedesco informed everyone present that all GRC information is public and available on the County website.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:17



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